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Accordingly, this Amendment is being timely filed.

Please amend the subject application as follows:

In The Claims

Please amend claims 1 and 6 as follows:

Sub C1
B1
--1. (Amended) A chimeric protein which comprises (1) a [mutated] DNA methyltransferase with attenuated DNA binding activity [portion and] linked to (2) a DNA binding protein [portion] that binds sufficiently close to a promoter sequence of a target gene, which promoter sequence contains a methylation site, to specifically methylate the site and inhibit activity of the promoter and thus inhibit expression of the target gene.--

Sub C2
B2
--6. (Amended) The [method] chimeric protein of claim 1, wherein the [mutated] DNA methyltransferase [portion] comprises [at least a portion of] a [mutated] M.SssI DNA methyltransferase protein with attenuated DNA binding activity or [at least a portion of] a [mutated] mammalian DNA methyltransferase protein with attenuated DNA binding activity.--

REMARKS

Claims 1,4,6-12,15,16,24-28,30-33, and 42-46 are pending in the subject application. Applicant has hereinabove amended claims 1 and 6 to more particularly point out the presently claimed invention.